

FINDHORN & KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held in Kinloss Primary School on Thursday 26th November 2009

Present:

L. Morgan(Chairman), R. Shand, G. Verner, H Morton, A. Skene, Cllr Hamilton, T. Negus (Sec).

In Attendance:

Pc Forsyth & PC McLean (Grampian Police), Eva Ward (Findhorn Foundation) and 1 member of the public.

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from I. Hampson, J Willoner, J Innes (RAFLO), PC Skivington.

Public Session

DRAFT

ITEM 2. ANY COMPETENT PUBLIC BUSINESS & GRAMPIAN POLICE REPORT

2.1 The Chairman welcomed PCs Forsyth & MacLean to the meeting. The Officers said that there was little to report other than break-ins to a number of caravans at Findhorn Sands caravan site on 23 Nov. A Scene of Crime forensic examination had been carried out and investigations were ongoing. Traffic police had carried out a number of road speed checks during the past month. The Secretary reported that PC Skivington had provided feed-back on the Police Surgery held in Kinloss in early November. Response had been disappointing with very few members of the public attending. The Chairman said that perhaps this could be taken as an encouraging sign that there were very few Law & Order problems in Kinloss although in the present financial climate it was questionable if such a poorly attended surgery in Kinloss represented the best use of Police resources. The meeting queried whether the Church car park is the best location for a police surgery and that perhaps using the Spar shop car park would be a more prominent and successful alternative. The Secretary said that he was waiting to hear from PC Skivington about arrangements for Findhorn surgeries. The Chairman thanked the Officers for their contribution to the meeting.

2.2 There was no other Competent Public Business.

Council Session

ITEM 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2009 were ratified. Proposed G Verner, seconded H Morton.

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Review of Road junction layout near Findhorn Church. The Secretary said that he had spoken with Mr James Smith of Moray Council Roads Department who had agreed to meet Findhorn Community Council members on site on 30th November.

4.2 ASCC postal ballot. The Secretary had sent off the postal ballot as instructed by the last meeting. The Chairman reported that all nominations and proposals that we had supported had been duly carried.

4.3 Proposals for possible licensing of BYO events. The Chairman reported that he had conveyed this Community Councils strong opposition to the proposal at the recent Joint Community Council of Moray meeting. Most other Community Councils represented agree with our sentiments. The Secretary reported on the parallel issue of changes in legislation requiring charity groups to obtain street trader licenses for

bric a brac and produce sales etc. He read out a letter from Mr Macaskill, Scottish Justice Secretary, in which he pointed out that any changes to the status quo required active intervention by the local authority. In the absence of this the situation would remain unchanged and charities would be unaffected.

4.4 Roller Skiers. The Secretary reported that he had written to Squadron Leader Smeaton expressing our concerns for the safety of roller skiers using the local narrow roads for training. In particular details had been requested of current safety protocols. The letter had been copied to Inspector Donald of Grampian Police. A reply is awaited.

4.5 Community Council Second Round Elections. The Secretary reminded the meeting that the closing date for receipt of candidate submissions for the second round of the Community Council elections is Friday 18th December 2009. He had given a set of application papers to one prospective candidate from Kinloss. G Verner and Cllr Hamilton said that they were aware of another prospective Kinloss candidate. The Secretary reminded the meeting that this second round was also open to candidates from Findhorn. This provoked some discussion. Cllr Hamilton pointed out that the present arrangement whereby there was equal representation with five Community Councillors from each village had taken many years of hard work to achieve. The Chairman felt that it would be preferable if Kinloss candidates could receive some sort of preference in the second round. The Secretary pointed out that this would not be supported by the procedure laid down in the rules contained in the Community Council Scheme which had been adopted by Moray Council. We had been fully consulted on the formulation of these rules and we cannot reasonably contravene them just to suit the present circumstances. The meeting agreed to review the matter prior to the next round of Community Council elections.

4.6 Community Council Representation on other bodies. The following nominations were agreed.

Joint Community Council of Moray – L Morgan	Findhorn Residents Association – R Shand
Findhorn Fairway Committee – T Negus	Findhorn Village Centre - J Willoner
James Milne Institute – H Morton	Still to be notified – Findhorn Bay Local Nature Reserve (2)
Planning Reps – Moray Council Contact - T Negus.	Village Reps – Kinloss - A Skene,
Foundation – J Willoner, Findhorn Village - H Morton.	

ITEM 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

5.1 The Chairman reported on the recent very successful annual conference of the Association of Scottish Community Councils held at the Scottish Parliament which he had attended.

5.2 The Chairman reported on proceedings at the recent meeting of the Joint Community Council of Moray.

5.3 The Chairman repeated his aspiration for greater public awareness of and involvement in Community Council business. The long-standing absence of a dedicated Community Council noticeboard in Kinloss needs to be rectified as soon as possible. The Forres Gazette has offered to consider the use of the shop window of their premises in Forres to help publicize local Community Councils.

5.4 The Chairman expressed concerns at the period of 'limbo' between the dissolution of the old Community Council and the formation of the new one. This meant that normal business stopped for a month and that such things as planning applications went unscrutinized. The meeting felt that this was another issue that should be reviewed as the present cycle of the Community Council nears its end in 2013.

ITEM 6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

6.1 Meetings Attended. Moray Council budget consultation meeting Aberlour 23 November. Meeting with Community Support Officer 23 November.

6.2 Correspondence: Courtesy copy of letter from James Smith about Cycleway extension.

Letter about 11th Moray Bike ride. Consultation document about NHS Grampian 3 year plan. Letter from Planning Aid Scotland. Community Outreach pack about switchover to digital TV. Copy of Scotland's first Marine Bill. Letter about Moray way Association.

6.3 Telephone. Call from Mr Dave Gowans, contract manager for recent water mains replacement work in Findhorn. Some of the reinstatement work has proved unsatisfactory and requires replacement. Work due to start early December depending on weather conditions. Disruption over the festive season will be avoided and project will be delayed until January if necessary.

6.4 e-correspondence. E-mail from a Forres resident who had called in at the bird hide when walking to Findhorn recently. Noted it had been vandalised. Moray Council made aware. Information copied to Secretary of Nature Reserve and Cllr Hamilton. Acknowledgement received from Moray Council.

6.5 Newsletters & Flyers. From Crown Estate, Northern Community Justice Authority..

ITEM 7. TREASURERS REPORT

7.1 Cheque for £44 issued in respect of Remembrance Day wreaths.

ITEM 8 ASCC REPORT

8.1 Annual Conference see 5.1.

8.2 The Chairman said that ASCC supported the aims of The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland and suggested that FKCC should consider taking out corporate membership. The secretary was instructed to obtain further details.

Action T Negus

ITEM 9. MORAY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

9.1 Cllr Hamilton said that he had also been made aware of the poor state of the bird hide and had asked Moray Council Environmental Services to intervene.

9.2 Cllr Hamilton drew the Community Council's attention the Community Service Scheme of Moray Council Criminal Justice Services.

9.3 Cllr Hamilton gave an update on the PPP schools replacement project. He was also pleased to note that the Scottish Government had allocated funding to cover 50% of the costs of refurbishing selected schools in Moray. Kinloss Primary School is one of the establishments expected to benefit and match funding has been identified within the Moray Council budget.

ITEM 10. RAFLO REPORT.

Nothing to report.

ITEM 11. FINDHORN FOUNDATION REPORT

11.1 Eva Ward issued a cordial invitation to Community Councillors and their partners to the Foundation Winter Gathering and to dinner beforehand.

ITEM 12. PLANNING

12.1 Correspondence: Letter from Scottish Government about recent changes to the planning system. Draft supplementary guidance to building in the countryside section of Moray Local Plan.

12.2 Sending of weekly planning lists appears to have resumed. Applications notified since last meeting:

Kinloss – No applications

Findhorn Foundation – No applications

Findhorn Village – 12 Nov Amend house design at Cobblers Cottage 157 Findhorn. – No objection

ITEM 13. NEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

13.1 Prior to the meeting, the Secretary had circulated a draft constitution. This closely followed the model Constitution published in the Moray Council Scheme handbook with a few modifications tailored to the needs of Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council. These modifications were discussed and agreed. The Secretary was instructed to produce a final draft for submission to Moray Council. **Action T Negus**

ITEM 14. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

14.1 The Chairman read out a letter that he had received from a member of the Kinloss Kirk session who plan to extend the usage of the Church building to include a meeting room and Community Hall complete with kitchen. It was felt that this would meet the long felt need for a Community facility in Kinloss but which could also continue to be used as a place of worship. The Kirk session hoped to seek funding support from the development company involved in the sale of the Southside former married quarters. The meeting indicated its support for the aims of the project and the Chairman was asked to send a letter of endorsement. **Action L Morgan**

ITEM 15 MORAY COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION

15.1 In view of his involvement in earlier Moray Council deliberations, Cllr Hamilton left the meeting. R. Shand reported on his attendance at a consultation meeting in Forres and H Morton and T Negus reported on a similar meeting in Aberlour. It was felt that this was a genuine attempt by Moray Council to inform and involve the public about difficult cost saving issues. It was regrettable that the meetings were organised at such short notice. It was agreed that budget saving comments and suggestions should be e-mailed to the Secretary by noon Saturday 5th December (copied to other Community Councillors). The Secretary would then endeavour to collate a corporate response from the Community Council in time for the deadline of 15th December. The Secretary also pointed out that there was no reason why individual members should not in addition submit their own suggestions to Moray Council.

ITEM 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 28th January 2010 at 7.30pm in the James Milne Institute Findorn. (Public session to include a report on the activities of the Findhorn Hinterland Group).